

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EUROPE AND THE MPLA

IN THE WAKE OF FRANCE'S FEBRUARY 17 RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS BEGAN TO CONSIDER THEIR POSITIONS, WITH SEVERAL STATES APPARENTLY ON THE VERGE OF FOLLOWING THE GOF'S LEAD. AMONG THEM:

--SWEDEN: THE FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL MEETS FEBRUARY 18 AND PROBABLY WILL APPROVE RECOGNITION.

--NORWAY: BASING ITS ACTION ON THE DICTATES OF "NOR-DIC UNITY," NORWAY WILL LIKELY ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION FEBRUARY 18.

--DENMARK: RECOGNITION MAY COME AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY

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18; IF SWEDEN FOLLOWS FRANCE'S LEAD, DANISH TRADE

UNIONS WILL PRESS IRRESISTIBLY.

--FINLAND: FINNISH RECOGNITION AWAITS ONLY THE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, WHO IS VISITING BRAZIL.

-HE NETHERLANDS: THE GON HAS OFFICIALLY STATED IT WILL RECOGNIZE THE MPLA SHORTLY.

--PORTUGAL CONTINUES TO DELIBERATE ON THE QUESTION, ALTHOUGH PRESSURE ON THE ANTI-MPLA FACTION GROWS DAILY. (CONFIDENTIAL) OSLO 821; STOCKHOLM 809; LISBON 1027; COPENHAGEN 508 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) HAGUE 825; HELSINKI 319, 2/17.)

2. AS LIBYA SIDLES UP TO ALGERIA, ALGERIA SIZES UP LIBYA

EMBASSY TRIPOLI OBSERVES THAT THE QADHAFI-BOUMEDIENNE DISCUSSIONS HAVE APPARENTLY CENTERED ON A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN LIBYA AND ALGERIA.

--IN RETURN FOR PROVIDING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT IN ALGERIA'S CONFLICT WITH MOROCCO, QADHAFI DEMANDS MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY.

--QADHAFI REPORTEDLY WANTS BOUMEDIENNE'S APPROVAL FOR A TRIP TO ALGERIA TO MAKE HIS PITCH DIRECTLY TO THE MASSES, AN IDEA BOUMEDIENNE FINDS UNAPPEALING.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE DOUBT THERE HAS BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT DEPLOYMENT OF LIBYAN AIR OR GROUND FORCES TO ALGERIA, NOR DOES IT SEEM THAT THE VAUNTED LIBYAN MIRAGES ARE IN ALGERIA. QADHAFI WILL FAN THE FLAMES OF WAR BUT WILL LET THE ALGERIANS AND MOROCCANS DO THE FIGHTING. (SECRET) TRIPOLI 212, 2/17.)

3. ETHIOPIA: WERE THE ARRESTS MEANT TO PREEMPT A COUP?

EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FINDS THE WAVE OF ARRESTS OVER THE WEEK-END IN ETHIOPIA PUZZLING IN ITS DIVERSITY. BANK GOVERNORS, RETIRED GENERALS, WIVES OF DEAD MILITARY OFFICERS, SINGERS, SECRET

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AIRLINE PILOTS, AND VARIOUS "FAT CATS" WERE CAUGHT IN THE SAME NET. THE ARRESTS MAY HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY FRIGHTENED AUTHORITIES:

--IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREEMPT A COUP AND INTIMIDATE ANY WOULD-BE PLOTTERS;

--TO ELIMINATE THOSE WITH SENIOR MILITARY RANK AND

LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL WHO POSE A THREAT TO THE PRESENT
REGIME.

WHATEVER THEIR CAUSE, THE ARRESTS HAVE DEPRESSED THE MORALE
OF THE ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY TO AN ALL-TIME LOW, AND EVEN
HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES NOW EXPECT ARREST AT ANY
TIME FOR UNSPECIFIED REASONS. (SECRET) ADDIS ABABA 1929,
2/17.) INGERSOLL

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